



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/578,474	05/26/2000	Charles Philippe Tresser	YO999-486	9995

21254 7590 11/22/2004  
MCGINN & GIBB, PLLC  
8321 OLD COURTHOUSE ROAD  
SUITE 200  
VIENNA, VA 22182-3817

EXAMINER

ELISCA, PIERRE E

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3621

DATE MAILED: 11/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/578,474

Applicant(s)

TRESSER, CHARLES PHILIPPE

Examiner

Pierre E. Elisca

Art Unit

3621

*NEU*

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This Office action is in response to Applicant's Response filed on 12/15/2003.
2. Claims 1-46 are pending.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-5, 15, and 38-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Muto Akihiro JP 10-074221 in view of Asad et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,539,093).

As per claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 15, 38, and 39-40 Muto discloses an information mediating device capable of protecting user's privacy against an information receiving side and guaranteeing the reliability of information communication by preventing information or attribute data specified by a user from being disclosed to the information receiving side which is readable as Applicant's claimed invention wherein said a method of using a personal device in conducting transactions over a network such that Applicant's third party reads on element 2, Applicant's first party reads on the customer, element 1,

Art Unit: 3621

Applicant's second party reads on a merchant, element 3, and Applicant's step of providing the second party with information identifying said first party only as a transactional party in said electronic business transaction reads on the authorization given to the merchant by the settlement bank, element 2. Applicant's proprietary item reads on the portable device, element 1, and Applicant's information identifying the customer reads on the authorization code generated by the portable device, element 1. Please note that the step of conducting the electronic business transaction between said first and second parties through the third party such that said identity of said first party is kept from the second party (see., abstract, specifically wherein said mediating device 2 is used for a computer network such as interconnection network and provided with a function capable of securing especially the anonymity of an information transmitting side.

Muto fails to explicitly disclose an intermediary relationship by said third party comprises replacing an identification data about said first party OR replacing a password with key identification.

Asad discloses a key ring organizer for an electronic business using public key infrastructure in which digital key replace end-user identification password. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the commercial transaction of Muto by including the limitation detailed above as taught by Asad because this would allow digital keys to be confirmed by the end-user or third party.

Art Unit: 3621

5. Claims 7, 8, 24, 41, 42, and 44-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Muto and Henley , and further in view of Asad.

As per claims 7, 41, and 42 Muto and Henley disclose the use of an information mediating device capable of protecting user's privacy against an information receiving side. Henley discloses a system (business entity), element 16, for providing medical services from a plurality of providers (verifiers), element 83, to a user, wherein the user is required to pay for (i.e., insurance or out-of-pocket) the services and hence, must authenticate himself to the provider. It is considered that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Muto to include the specifics of the provider selection arrangement of Henley and use the device of Muto for purposes of user authentication to the providers as user authentication is old and well-known to be a requirement of any type of business transaction. Although neither Muto nor Henley specifically disclose the type of encryption used for communications between the parties, it is considered to be old and well-known that a customer will have software that will enable him to encrypt any private information (application) using the public key of the recipient (business entity) as is done using public key encryption (public signature scheme). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combined teachings of Muto and Henley to include public key encryption for the purpose of encrypting the information passed between the parties as a matter of design choice.

Art Unit: 3621

Muto fails to explicitly disclose an intermediary relationship by said third party comprises replacing an identification data about said first party OR replacing a password with key identification.

Asad discloses a key ring organizer for an electronic business using public key infrastructure in which digital key replace end-user identification password. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the commercial transaction of Muto by including the limitation detailed above as taught by Asad because this would allow digital keys to be confirmed by the end-user or third party.

### ***Conclusion***

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pierre E. Elisca whose telephone number is 703 305-3987. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 703 305-9769. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3621

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Pierre Eddy Elisca

**Primary Patent Examiner**

**November 17, 2004**